

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DES MOINES IA
800 AM CDT WED MAR 26 2014

...THIS IS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA...

GOVERNOR TERRY BRANSTAD...THE IOWA HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION...AND THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HAVE DESIGNATED THE WEEK OF MARCH 24 TO MARCH 28 AS SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK IN IOWA. EACH MORNING THIS WEEK...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN DES MOINES WILL ISSUE A PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT FOCUSING ON A DIFFERENT ITEM EACH DAY. TOPICS THIS YEAR INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING...

MONDAY...FLASH FLOODING
TUESDAY...WARNING RECEPTION
WEDNESDAY...TORNADOES
THURSDAY...SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS
FRIDAY...FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

ATTENTION MEDIA...IN ORDER FOR SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS WEEK TO BE EFFECTIVE...MEDIA COVERAGE IS CRITICAL. PLEASE USE THE INFORMATION IN THE PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS IN YOUR NEWS PROGRAMS TO HELP PROMOTE SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY. WE ALSO ENCOURAGE MEDIA INTERVIEWS. PLEASE CONTACT JEFF JOHNSON IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

CHECKOUT THE NEW NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DES MOINES PREPAREDNESS PAGE! IT IS FULL OF NEW SEVERE WEATHER PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION! IT IS ON THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE...DES MOINES...WEBSITE UNDER PREPAREDNESS ON THE LEFT HAND SIDE.

TODAY/S TOPIC IS TORNADOES...

THE COMBINED IOWA AND NEBRASKA TORNADO DRILL WILL BE CONDUCTED THIS MORNING. HERE IS WHAT TO EXPECT...

10:00 A.M. CDT STORM PREDICTION CENTER ISSUES TEST TORNADO WATCH FOR ALL OF IOWA AND NEBRASKA VALID UNTIL 11:00 A.M.
10:10 A.M. CDT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE (WFO) IN SIOUX FALLS AND OMAHA ISSUES A TEST TORNADO WARNING FOR THEIR IOWA AND NEBRASKA COUNTIES.
10:15 A.M. CDT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE (WFO) IN DES MOINES ISSUES A TEST TORNADO WARNING FOR THEIR IOWA COUNTIES.
10:15 A.M. CDT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE (WFO) IN QUAD CITIES ISSUES A TEST TORNADO WARNING FOR THEIR IOWA

COUNTIES.

10:20 A.M. CDT WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE (WFO) IN LA CROSSE ISSUES
TEST A TORNADO WARNING FOR THEIR IOWA COUNTIES.

10:30 A.M. UNTIL 10:45 A.M.

ALL PARTICIPATING IOWA WEATHER FORECAST OFFICES
ISSUE A SEVERE WEATHER STATEMENT TERMINATING THE
TEST.

A TORNADO IS A RAPIDLY ROTATING COLUMN OF AIR IN CONTACT WITH THE
GROUND. A VISIBLE CLOUD IS NOT NEEDED FOR A TORNADO TO BE IN
PROGRESS. SOME TORNADOES MAY NOT APPEAR TO EXTEND TO THE GROUND
BUT ARE CAUSING CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE. TORNADOES TAKE ON VARIOUS
SHAPES AND SIZES... AND MOST PRODUCE WINDS LESS THAN 120 MPH.
HOWEVER...A FEW ARE CAPABLE OF PRODUCING WINDS OVER 300 MPH.
SOME ARE VERY SMALL AND LAST FOR ONLY A MINUTE OR SO...WHILE
OTHERS CAN BE A MILE OR TWO WIDE AND STAY ON THE GROUND FOR OVER
AN HOUR.

WHAT TO LISTEN FOR...

A TORNADO WATCH IS ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WHEN
CONDITIONS ARE FAVORABLE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TORNADOES IN AND
CLOSE TO THE WATCH AREA. WATCHES ARE GENERALLY ISSUED FOR THE
DURATION OF 4-8 HOURS AND IN ADVANCE OF THE ACTUAL OCCURRENCE OF
SEVERE WEATHER. DURING THE WATCH...PEOPLE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO
MOVE TO A PLACE OF SAFETY IF THREATENING WEATHER APPROACHES.

A TORNADO WARNING IS ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WHEN
A TORNADO IS INDICATED BY RADAR OR SIGHTED BY SPOTTERS. PEOPLE IN
THE AFFECTED AREA SHOULD SEEK SAFE SHELTER IMMEDIATELY.

TORNADO EMERGENCY...

A TORNADO EMERGENCY MEANS THAT SIGNIFICANT...WIDESPREAD DAMAGE WITH
A HIGH LIKELIHOOD OF NUMEROUS FATALITIES IS EXPECTED TO CONTINUE
WITH A STRONG AND VIOLENT TORNADO. A TORNADO EMERGENCY IS NOT A
NEW WARNING PRODUCT...BUT A NEW...VISIBLE AND HIGH IMPACT CALL-TO-
ACTION. THE CORRESPONDING DAMAGE TAG FOR A TORNADO EMERGENCY IS
TORNADO DAMAGE THREAT...CATASTROPHIC. FOR MORE ABOUT IMPACT BASED
WARNINGS...VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT...

WWW.CRH.NOAA.GOV/CRH/?N=2013_IBW_INFO (LOWER CASE)

TO BE READY FOR A TORNADO...HAVE A NOAA WEATHER RADIO WITH A
WARNING ALARM TONE AND BATTERY BACKUP. MAKE SURE YOUR FAMILY AND
PEOPLE IN YOUR WORKPLACE ARE FAMILIAR WITH SAFETY PRECAUTIONS AND
THE LOCATION OF SAFE SHELTER. REVIEW THE PROCEDURES AND PRACTICE
THEM.

IF YOU ARE IN A HOME OR OTHER BUILDING WHEN A TORNADO
STRIKES...MOVE UNDERNEATH A TABLE...WORKBENCH OR STAIRCASE. STAY

AWAY FROM CORNERS OF THE ROOM BECAUSE DEBRIS IS USUALLY DISPLACED INTO THOSE AREAS. STAY AWAY FROM WINDOWS.

MOBILE HOMES...EVEN IF TIED DOWN...OFFER LITTLE PROTECTION FROM TORNADOES AND SHOULD BE ABANDONED. IF AN UNDERGROUND SHELTER IS NOT AVAILABLE... MOVE TO THE LOWEST...MOST INTERIOR ROOM AVAILABLE.

SAFE PLACES IN AN OFFICE BUILDING...SHOPPING MALL OR SCHOOL...INCLUDE INTERIOR HALLWAYS. CROUCH ON THE GROUND FLOOR AGAINST A WALL...COVERING YOUR HEAD WITH YOUR HANDS. LEAVE WIDE OPEN ROOMS LIKE GYMS...AUDITORIUMS OR COMMON AREAS OF SHOPPING MALLS AS THEY ARE UNSAFE.

IF YOU ARE CAUGHT OUT IN THE OPEN OR IN A VEHICLE NEVER TRY TO OUTFRAN A TORNADO ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE NEARBY. TORNADOES CAN MOVE AT SPEEDS OF OVER 50 MPH AND CHANGE DIRECTIONS QUICKLY.

MANY PEOPLE MISTAKENLY THINK THAT HIGHWAY OVERPASSES PROVIDE SAFETY FROM A TORNADO. IN REALITY...AN OVERPASS MAY BE ONE OF THE WORST PLACES TO SEEK SHELTER FROM A TORNADO. SEEKING SHELTER UNDER AND OVERPASS PUTS YOU AT GREATER RISK OF BEING KILLED OR INJURED BY FLYING DEBRIS.

TORNADIC WINDS CAN MAKE THE MOST BENIGN ITEM A DANGEROUS MISSILE. IN ADDITION TO THE DEBRIS THAT CAN INJURE YOU...THE WINDS UNDER AN OVERPASS ARE CHanneled AND COULD EASILY BLOW YOU OR CARRY YOU OUT FROM UNDER THE OVERPASS.

JEFF JOHNSON
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